

Scouting About

News from the South African Scout Association.

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SCOUTS
South Africa

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0860SCOUTS

“ANDILE WELE, DEVELOPING SKILLS WHILE SERVING OTHERS”

If you enter SSA's national office today you will be greeted with a big smile from a diligent and soft spoken Andile Wele. Since August Andile Wele from Langa in the Western Cape has been working as the Front Office Administrator at the National Office. This short term position was established with the aim of providing members of the Scouting fraternity with the opportunity to build skills and gain experience.

Andile has been a Scout since he was 12 with the 2nd Langa Scout Troop. “In my community there was a lot of gangsterism and violence. The Scouts always seemed to be doing good things and have lots of fun. I joined Scouting because I heard that they go on hikes, camps and play games. I also loved the uniform”, explains Andile. “I still really enjoy it a lot. One of my best memories is when we went for an

overnight camp and had to ‘rough it’ because we got lost. But as Scouts we knew how to survive outdoors and find our way back to camp. It was fun!”

Andile hopes to build a career in IT networks and technical television operation. “I want to learn new skills and get as much experience as I can”, he says. “Here I am taught how to manage a shop, how retail works and how to communicate with many different people. It is also exciting to learn more about the Scouting Movement and to increase my computer skills. This experience will help me with my future career and studies”, he says. “Sam and Eleanor are great teachers and I am increasing my skills and serving others at the same time, that is nice!

WELL DONE TO THE SCOUTS FROM 2ND MOSSEL BAY AND 1ST KNYSNA!

More than three tons of fuel spilt into the sea from the cargo ship Kiani Satu that ran aground off Buffels Bay near Knysna in August, threatening the nearby Goukamma Nature Reserve. Scouts from 2nd Mossel Bay and 1st Knysna Sea Scouts joined the salvage operations by cleaning up oil that reached the shore. Well done for your service to our environment!



SCOUTS 67 MINUTES PROJECT - MANDELA DAY 2013

First Bedelia Scouts in Welkom visited House of Love – a centre for Orphans on Mandela Day. 18 children from four orphanages attended the function and they were taught how to make paper craft models and play balloon games. The function was a great success as children dispersed with smiling faces, the prime intention of Madiba Day.



Spring 2013

CONGRATULATIONS SPRINGBOK SCOUTS



Brendan Vrugtman – Gauteng

Chad Ten Doeschate – Gauteng

Vaughn Davies – Gauteng

Viwe Benxa – Western Cape

Daniel van der Berg – Western Cape

be prepared....

AKELA'S CORNER

B-P said "Play is the first great educator!"

We are constantly reminded that the Cub way is the Play way!

We the adults in our Pack get together around teacups one designated afternoon to expand the planning of next term's Pack Programme. It's summer so we have all noted down outdoor activities that we MUST fit into that programme. And so it goes on, and soon we have filled in all the appropriate dates and times at our future Pack meetings, right up to that end-of-term date.

"Baloo" will instruct the Cubs for their Cheetah Badge, "Raksha" will handle the Leopard badge work and "Akela" the Lion and Leaping Wolf stuff. We will call on the two Scout Pack helpers for the more complicated knotting, mapping and compass work. All organized! O no! We have forgotten that next term we will have three new chums to start on Karakul level. Don't worry, we will fit it all in!

The first meeting comes around – Flag Break – Prayer – Grand Howl. We break for that Jungle Book story that Akela is so good at, with the growls and actions just in

the right places. Get into your groups now and we must make progress in our advancement levels as we had so meticulously planned.

Half an hour later – line up in your sixes. But before anything else is said, three little upturned faces say in unison – "Can't we play a game now??" – even if that was what you had planned next.

This is the warning signal! Our programme is boring!

Shouldn't our entire programme be a game? Could Akela's Jungle story be a play, where the Cubs become the various animals wearing made up masks, making the appropriate noises and actions? Use the many Jungle dances and games. Draw the jungle animals on a large sheet of paper and colour paint them in? They will remember the difficult names better that way.

The word "instruction" should be a No! No! in the Pack. How do you get the required knowledge into all those little scatterbrains in a "Play Way"? Lets think.

Red Six is aboard a pirate ship – to sail it they must know all the knots and compass directions to reach the treasure island. Blue six are doctors and nurses in a hospital, they must know their first aid. Bandage up their fellow Six members. Yellow Six is out in nature. Make plaster casts of leaves and bird tracks. Nice and messy is it not. Look for five kinds of rocks.

You have spent time and materials preparing these play activities; swap the Sixes around at a future Pack meeting giving them all a chance of being a Pirate, Doctor or Naturalist, etc.

You ask, where am I to get all these assistants? There is only myself, Raksha and Baloo! Well get out there and find them! A well run, interesting programme produces happy Cubs; happy Cubs mean interested and happy parents. When you have found them, get them trained and then USE them. It is better that Akela has nothing to do but supervise the activities than new "Kaa", with potential, sits around with nothing to do all meeting. Will you see her at the next meeting?

Dimani Scout Troop empowers community to alleviate hunger.

The Food for Life Project has been providing many Scouting members and their communities with skills and vegetables to feed themselves and their communities. The 1st Dimani Scout Troop in Limpopo is one of the troops that is using this programme to help alleviate hunger in their community.

Troop leader Mungadi Thovhodzo Deon spearheaded the project co-funded by DPSG. A gardening workshop was held that taught Scouts and young members of the Dimani community how to develop and maintain a food garden. It was followed by a healthy eating workshop for children and parents. More than 60 families benefited from this workshop as they now know what healthy food is, what it does to their bodies and how to grow it. "The project is truly building food security for the community of Dimani, especially for the vulnerable children," reported Deon. "It gives young children a role to play in fighting hunger and also equips them with knowledge and skills that they will use for the rest of their lives."

Being able to eat vegetables they themselves have planted has instilled a sense of pride within some of the participants. "I always eat carrot salad during Christmas time and now I am the one who is planting carrots," said Unarine. "Being part of this project, actually being a Scout has helped me a lot. I did not know how vegetables are planted and how they grow, but today I have the great knowledge that a person needs to produce fresh and healthy vegetables," added Siala.

When asked about future plans Deon says, "We need to start a project in which we can give a free weekly meal to the community elders and supply vegetables to local creches and special schools." Deon also wants to run a 'Learning to earn workshop' for Scouting and community members.



CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

A.R. Williams in NGM has written that many thousands of ordinary citizens, all over the world, are joining with researchers in searching for and reporting many natural phenomena.

Enlisting ordinary citizens isn't new to science. As early as 1770 European bird surveys, included reports from backyard birders. Amateur astronomers. Weather watchers and other hobbyists have also made contributions. What's different today is the internet, which has helped recruit hundreds of thousands of volunteers over the last decade. Choosing from projects like 10.5 million photos of animals and insects on **Flickr** website. Reporting sightings of birds, mentioned in Roberts, as not occurring in the area where you live. Photograph and report strange and interesting insects found on your hike. Photographs of elephants taken in our own reserves can help researchers keep track of this massive creature. Even over 21000 sightings, reported by divers, on **Ecocean**, of the elusive and previously presumed endangered Whale Shark have allayed scientist's fears.

Williams suggests that the social media can be the latest way to get citizens excited about conservation

THE CONSERVATION OF OUR WONDERFUL FAUNA

Recently I pulled out my collection of Scout badges, to show to my nephew's two sons, both Cubs in the UK. I came across the badge issued at SANJAM '89, South Africa's 4th National Jamboree, held on the banks of the Midmar Dam, KZN, in December of that year.



to "Thandi's" plight, and watch her recovery and how skilled people were able to reconstruct her face until today, over a year later, only a small area is still to heal. Unfortunately I must report, that, doing what rhinos do, head butting, her tender facial skin transplant was torn away and must be

redone. "Thandi" will never grow a horn again, but she has been introduced to a new mate. Before he was released into the park his horns were cut off by the ranger staff.

What made me stop and look again, was the outline of the rhino on the badge, with it's magnificent horn. At the opening of that SANJAM, the guest of honour was Dr. Ian Player – Mr Wilderness Foundation, the iconic savior, with his dedicated team, of the then threatened White Rhinoceros. He of course, spoke to the almost 2000 Scouts and Guides present of what they could do to help preserve our beautiful fauna for future generations.

It is now over 20 years later and his future "generation" are the children of today, including our current Cubs and Scouts. What do they find? Poachers, greedy and uncaring individuals, killing and hacking off the horns of the offspring of those preserved rhinos that Dr Ian dedicated his life to save.

In March of 2012, in the Eastern Cape, three rhinos in the Kariega Game Reserve were immobilized and their horns hacked off while they were still alive. Two died of their wounds, but "Thandi" a female, survived. At the time my Cub Pack were deep into their Challenge on Conservation and a large print of "Thandi" and her horrific wound, was pinned up on our I-Board. We were able to watch, on internet, the response of the whole world

I ask, if that is going to be the answer to save these animals, are our next generations ever going to be able to see a magnificent rhino, with its horns in place?

Now I have just read –"South Africa is exporting lion bones to countries that sustain the myth that the ground up bones will give man virility!" If Scouting does nothing else, let us make sure that every Scout that goes through our Movement, not only in our country, but worldwide, has the myths and fables of these misconceptions, spread by greedy and mindless people, expelled from his or her young mind.

At a function in Port Elizabeth this June, Dr Ian Player said: "this remnant of the dinosaur age will be wiped out within the next decade, if the poaching crisis is not addressed."

Open www.kariega.co.za/thandi - See her horrific wound! Watch "Thandi" now at play with a rhino calf!

A MESSAGE FROM A FORMER SCOUT

Good day Scouting Brothers! My name is Dick Wheeler, (Wolf, my Scout name) and I currently farm in the North West Province, RSA.

My Scouting career started with the 5th Bloemfontein Troop March 1969, from where I moved to the 13th Grey College Troop to complete my Springbok and Chief Scout Award in 1974. My National Service (military) commenced 1n 1976 and in that year the 1st Sannaspos Venturer Troop was formed by the late Roy Lilly with myself as AVA (Asst. Venturer Advisor). Assisted by the military with equipment, we were able to give former Scouts from all over the country a chance to continue with the adventure of Scouting. Sadly we moved on to further our studies and start out on civilian life, the Troop closed.

The experience gained with the Scouts gave me a stable platform to take on life's adventure. Although I'm no longer involved with Scouting, I still use the knowledge gained in my everyday life, farming and hunting.

I served 30 years with the Military reserve force and thanks to my Scouting, I demobbed as a Lt. Col.

As Bear Grills, the extreme adventurer says "If I was the prime minister of England, I would make it compulsory for every young person to become a Scout."

Words so true, my advice to young folk today, get off the streets, get into a Scout uniform and start Scouting. You will Be Prepared for life.

Good luck!

DUTY TO GOD



THE LUCKY NUMBER SEVEN – is it special?

From the Bible to casinos, seven is often considered to be a magical, perfect, and lucky number. Christians are asked to forgive others 70 times 7 times. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Then the seven deadly sins, and the corresponding seven heavenly virtues. In Judaism, Shavuot, marking the emergence of the Jewish people as a nation, meaning "week", possibly the seven days God took to complete the creation of earth? The "menorah", the ancient candle holder in the Jewish temple, before its destruction, held seven candles. We could go on and fill this entire page with biblical mention of the number seven.

In Hinduism the number seven is a symbolic representation of the earthly plane

In Buddhism seven refers to the "7 Factors of Enlightenment", as well at the "7 Universal Mental Constituents."

Then there are the facts connected to the number seven. There are seven continents, seven colours to the rainbow, seven basic musical notes, seven celestial bodies visible to the naked eye, and not least we have the seven ancient wonders of the world.

Recently this story appeared on the Internet: a teacher asked her students to name the Seven Wonders of the World. A number of students, with the help, no doubt, of electronic gadgets, quickly produced the various lists. One young girl, however, without any electronic research, produced her own list. The Seven Wonders of the World that God has given us, she submitted, are seeing, feeling, tasting, smelling, touching, breathing and loving. That list, I believe, trumps all the other lists.

SCOUTS South Africa Hoodies on SALE

In response to the big demand and in order to promote the Scouting brand, SSA developed a third item for the Casual Wear Promotional Range. The design and print were selected through two online surveys. The hoodies have been now been manufactured and are sold for R295,- per garment.

Order yours now to avoid disappointment! Complete the order form online and email it to info@scouting.org.za

YOU AND YOUR GROUP MAGAZINE

30 Reasons for producing a Group publication:

- Building and stimulating the morale of all Group members
- Publishing reports by Scouts or Cubs on camps, hikes, etc. plus Patrol reports.
- Stimulating Patrols to higher standards
- Creating advance interest in coming events
- Reviewing past events
- Expressing thanks to helpers
- Presenting training material, programme ideas, etc.
- Featuring progress reports
- Publicising individual, Six, Patrol, Pack, Troop, and Crew achievements
- Propagating the Scout Law and Promise, the Outdoor Code and similar fundamentals.
- Disseminating Group, District, Provincial, National and International information
- Keeping parents informed in a variety of fields
- Giving the parents and the local community a better understanding of Scouting
- Recording highlights of Group history – a journal, on file, is history (Heritage)
- Introducing new members, saying goodbye to old ones – and keeping them in touch.
- Promote fundraising activities
- Bringing the Group Committee closer to both Scouts/Cubs and parents
- Recruiting new members and supporters, young and old
- Helping to strengthen weak spots via the editorial programme
- Keeping other community organizations, and business people, alert to Scouting's role
- Spreading ideas to other Group journals via regular swops
- Propagating a variety of aims, such as "Smartness in Scouting"
- Giving the Scouts practical experience in journalism, through active participation
- Correcting negative opinions and attitudes
- Presenting highlights of the year's progress, and presenting the progress ahead
- Building goodwill inside the Group – and outside, to various local publics
- Gearing people up for special projects – Group District Provincial and National
- Explaining new policies, new programmes, new concepts
- Keeping District, Province and S.A.H.Q. informed of Group happenings
- Providing ideas, news, for possible re-publication in District, Provincial and National media

When for some good reason you cannot produce even a humble unit newsletter, that's all the more reason for maintaining a lively, informative Group Information Board that's well edited in the meeting place. The ideal is both a journal AND a Group I-Board, to achieve a double-punch.

Since "ED for Scout Editors" was first produced, information technology has moved on in leaps and bounds, and today so many Groups have their own Web Pages, Facebook and other digital media, which is fantastic. Still the printed word (and picture), have a longer life-span and leave a more immediate impression than the other media. We must also be aware that, maybe, not everyone in our Group has access to a computer and internet. Then some of our target readers out there are not going to seek out our e-message in the hustle and bustle of their daily lives.

Climb Baden-Powell Peak in Nepal

A year ago I made a "tongue in cheek" comment about the possibility of joining a twelve day expedition to climb the 5819 m Baden-Powell Peak in the Himalayas. In 2007 the Nepalese Government renamed "Urkema Peak", Baden-Powell Peak in honour of our founder and the Centenary anniversary of Scouting's existence. First, in September last year, the 1st Nepal Jamboree was held. On 8 March 2013, Rover Masaki Nagishima of Japan summited the peak. In April this year 33 Finnish Scouts took part in the 2nd Nepal Jamboree and attempted to climb B-P Peak. Unfortunately due to bad weather, a summating was not possible. They will be back . . . Read the exciting Scout story and see the beautiful photographs of this mountain. www.baden-powell.peak.nepal

THANKS! P/L Austin Kemsley, Editor of "SEABREEZE", Group Magazine of the Eastleigh Sea Scout Group for sending me the first edition of your bright and "Breezy" news effort. I see you have got all the Scouters; Ron, Vicky and Trish involved; for your next edition do get articles from the Scouts and Cubs. That way you won't have to scratch around for something to fill it. You will then find that it becomes "our" mag., not "his" mag.

POTCHEFSTROOM ROVER CREW launch their new scarf



Standing from left: Itumeleng Phela, Tebogo Moletsane, Kagiso Mafokwane.
Seated: Queen Diseko, Tebogo Masike, Refilwe Mkhwanazi.

This summer, in the United States, I met a group of Scouts and their Leaders on their way to Summer Camp in the Suwannee River Reserve in the northern part of the State of Florida.

Our meeting was of short duration, at a road side rest facility where you could pop in a coin and get refreshments, after you had visited the "gents". There were ten youngsters and their two Leaders, all in uniform, sucking on a can or licking on an ice-cream cone. Apart from their accent they could have been Scouts from anywhere in the

world, excited and chatting away about their expectations for the camp to be held over the next few days. I remembered that excitement in my own Scouts, on so many occasions, as we prepared for even a short weekend camp back home.

When I travel I always have some Scout badges in my pocket and I was able to introduce those American Scouts to their brother Scouts in South Africa.

What is it about our movement that will get adults into a uniform, then drive a group of other peoples' children some distance to give them that excitement and anticipation?

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be prepared....